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CHRC WELCOMES RECOMMENDATIONS TO MODERNIZE THE CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

OTTAWA - June 21, 2000 - The Canadian Human Rights Commission welcomes the recommendations released today by the La Forest Review Panel appointed by the Minister of Justice, to examine the Canadian Human Rights Act.

"I fully support the Review Panel's recommendations to make the Commission more effective in addressing serious underlying problems of discrimination," said CHRC Chief Commissioner, Michelle Falardeau-Ramsay. "The report entitled Promoting Equality: A New Vision is very timely", she added, "and its recommendations would strengthen our system by giving us the tools needed to protect human rights in Canada."

Mrs. Falardeau-Ramsay noted that the recommendations recognized the importance of the Commission's work in the areas of education and promotion and said that preventing discrimination is key to building a human rights culture in Canada.

The report also suggests that the Commission should monitor and report on Canada's implementation of its commitments under international human rights treaties. The Commission strongly supports this proposed change to the law.

"I look forward to a favourable response and early action by the government on the Review Panel's recommendations," concluded Mrs. Falardeau-Ramsay.

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